

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 12, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
House of Representatives
H-204 Capitol Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

The ongoing opioid crisis is ravaging our communities and only getting worse, with annual overdose deaths topping 100,000 for the first time in 2021. We appreciate your continued commitment to combating the opioid epidemic, but temporary extensions of the Schedule I classification of fentanyl-related substances to February 18th, 2022 are not enough. We therefore write to urge consideration of legislation to permanently classify fentanyl analogues as a Schedule I substance. It is especially critical in light of the recent news that fentanyl overdoses are now the leading cause of death in American adults ages 18 to 45.

As you know, opioids like fentanyl have claimed the lives of our family members, friends, and neighbors at alarming rates in our home states and across the country. In many of these unfortunate cases the fentanyl and other illicit substances are trafficked from outside the United States, which is why it is critical that we strengthen international efforts to combat fentanyl trafficking, including increased collaboration and capacity-building measures. In November 2021 alone, 1,113 pounds of fentanyl were seized by Customs and Border Protection agents, which is enough to kill over 250 million people.

Additional legislation is needed to keep deadly synthetic drugs off the streets by permanently classifying fentanyl-related substances under Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. We must take tougher steps to keep deadly substances like fentanyl out of our neighborhoods and bring those responsible to justice. Permanent scheduling of fentanyl-related substances is essential in our fight to save lives and confront the addiction epidemic, and we urge you to take swift action to ensure passage of legislation.

Thank you for your dedication to the health and well-being of the American people. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this effort.

Sincerely,



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



Liz Cheney
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



William R. Timmons IV
Member of Congress



Aumua Amata Coleman
Radewagen
Member of Congress



Conor Lamb
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



Ted Budd
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley
Member of Congress



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



Mariannette Miller-Meeks,
M.D.
Member of Congress



Stephanie Bice
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



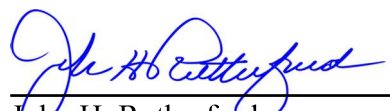
Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Peter Meijer M.C.
Member of Congress



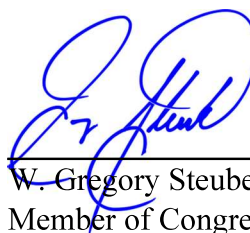
Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



Michael Guest
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



David Kustoff
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



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Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
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Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Charles J. "Chuck"
Fleischmann
Member of Congress



Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress



Daniel Meuser
Member of Congress



Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress



Tony Gonzales
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



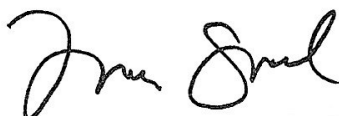
Anthony Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



Michelle Steel
Member of Congress



Tracey Mann
Member of Congress